

TALON

September/October 2011



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Big plans for 2011 Homecoming

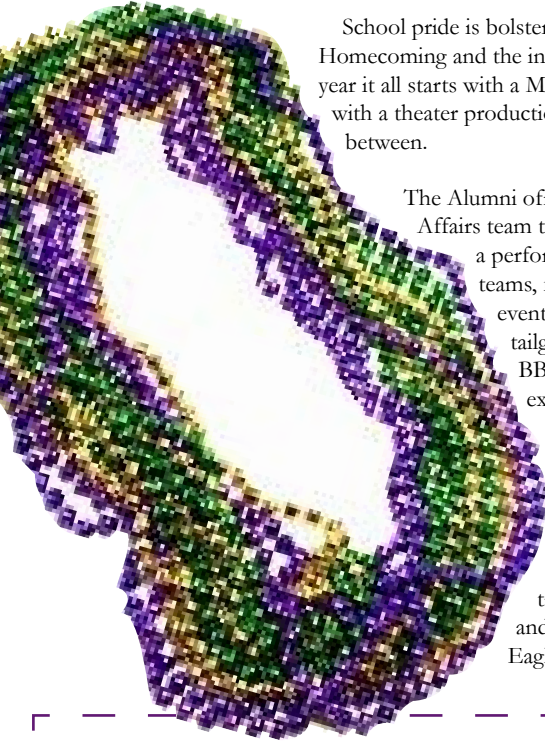
By Cassidy Perry

Parties, beads, contests and more are all coming to Avila in a few short weeks!

School pride is bolstered and revived each year by Eagle Days, Homecoming and the infamous Homecoming Football game. This year it all starts with a Marty-Graw themed extravaganza and ends with a theater production with plenty of fun and food pack in-between.

The Alumni office has teamed with the Student Affairs team to morph the Mabee Fieldhouse into a performance center, featuring the fall sports teams, fun contest, beads and masks. But this free event is only the beginning. Saturday launches a tailgate party with barbecue from Jack Stacks BBQ and only adds to the anticipation and excitement of the upcoming football game against Baker University.

Homecoming is about renewing pride in the school, celebrating the success of those who have graduated and enjoying both old and new friendships. This will all take place starting October 7-9. Come out and learn what it truly means to be an Avila Eagle.



Editorial Policy

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+Peace starts with you

By Kelby Phelps

"Right Relationships; Peace Begins with Us" is 2011's Peace Week theme set to begin September 19. Plenty of activities are planned throughout the week, but two notable speakers have been selected to kick off the festivities on Constitution Day, Jay Sjerven and Abdul Bakar. Both members of the United Nations Association of Greater Kansas City (UNA-GKC), Sjerven is current the president of the UNA-GKC and has held that seat

for eight years. Bakar, originally from Somalia, is a member of the board of directors of UNA-GKC. Both men have very unique stories and a great understanding of the Constitution and the United Nations Charter, which is why they were asked to speak about how our country tries to organize peace with others. After last year's speaker, Kansas State Senator Tim Owens, the bar was set high and these two men are sure to not disappoint.

2011 Peace Week Line Up

Monday, September 19 (9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Whitfield Center)

Constitution Day Speaker:
Charters and Ties that Bind
-Jay Sjerven
-Abdul Bakar

Wednesday, September 21
Film Screening; "Encounter Point"
Time =TBA

A film about the hope for peace and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians. Encounter Point is a true story about the everyday leaders who refuse to sit back as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict escalates.

Yoga (4:45 in the Mindfulness Room Foyle Hall)

All Are Welcome to come and discover on way to create peace within with a body mind spirit approach. Yoga is free to Avila students, faculty and staff and taught by Yoga instructor of 30 years, Tom Jacobs.

Musician Dorrell London (7 p.m. in the Chapel)

Tuesday, September 20 (11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Marian Lounge)

Peace Fair - Groups from different human rights and peace organizations set up information tables in the Marian Lounge to help expose students to these organizations and other points of view.

Campus Ministry - Peace Out Cook Out (7 p.m. The Quad)

Thursday, September 22 (11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Marian Dining Hall)

Food and Culture Celebration
Enjoy international cuisine made by students from all over the world. Come and learn of their culture while accepting the gracious gift of their food and hospitality. This lunch is free and open to the entire Avila community. (Commuter students welcome).

HOPE's Stations: Joplin recovery shared thru photographs

By Felicia DePriest

On Friday, August 26, the "{Hope}'s Stations: Faith, Patriotism, & Brands" exhibit made its debut. Held in the Thornhill Gallery on Avila's campus, the exhibit showcased the works of Dr. J.

Anthony Snorgrass from his travels to Joplin, MO throughout the summer to help with the recovery efforts.

Nearly four months ago, on May 22, Joplin, was hit by a devastating storm. A 2-celled F5 tornado created a path of destruction in the small town. According to CNN, of 50,000 people living in Joplin, 153 were killed and hundreds more injured.

Snorgrass, an Associate Professor of Communications at Avila University, traveled this summer with a non-profit organization called {Hope} Station. This organization would eventually be the inspiration of Snorgrass' exhibit name.

Snorgrass unexpectedly became involved with the group when he made a presentation at a South Kansas City Chamber of Commerce seminar. Stephanie Tillman, the

founder of {Hope} Station, was also on the program. There, she talked about the {Hope} Station's ministry and her efforts in Joplin.

Tillman recalled first hearing about the Joplin tragedy and why she created {Hope} Station. "I was at Panera Bread and saw the Kansas City Star with the Joplin story. I asked myself what is the one thing that they don't have [now]? Hope."

Tillman responded by launching {Hope} Station. In Joplin, Tillman pitched a large tent in the middle of the disaster area. Rather than providing relief, {Hope} Station provided release, according to Snorgrass. Tillman noted, "We did things like haircuts, crafts for kids, and family photos. Things to help give back hope and strength".

Tillman also printed 1000 t-shirts to hand out to survivors. With a marker, survivors were able to write on the back of the shirts, sharing with others their personal story of survival. "It really began the healing process. People could express themselves. Children could draw pictures of what they had seen," said Tillman.

Moved by Tillman's devotion, Snorgrass approached Tillman at the SKCC program and shortly after had made plans to travel to Joplin to join Tillman, her husband, their two kids, and the {Hope} Station crew.

In Joplin, Snorgrass took thousands of exposures. The outcome was forty-two emotional pieces of photography; 48 3-d exposures exhibited in old



Thornhill Director Marci Aylward; Photographer J. Anthony Snorgrass; AU President Ron Sleptiza; and School of Visual & Communication Arts Dean, Dotty Hamilton welcome guests to the {HOPE}'s Stations Exhibit.

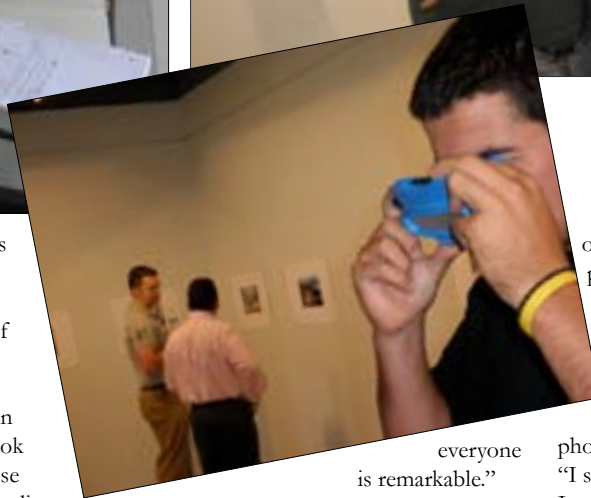




school view masters; and 22 minutes of gripping video. Snorgrass hoped that his photographs and video will provide others with “a deep sense of what happened in Joplin and where things are going.”

Few people are actually featured in Snorgrass’ photographs. Why? “I took special care not to interfere or impose on survivors who were mourning, dealing with deep personal losses or grieving,” explained Snorgrass.

A good sized crowd of people showed up to share in the reveal of Snorgrass’ work. Among the crowd were various AU Eagles, such as President Sleptiza and student, David Fuller. Also in attendance was Sister Marie Jone Harris, Academic Provost. Sister Marie was impressed with Snorgrass’ sensitivity to the subject, saying, “The way he captured the devastation of daily life for



everyone is remarkable.” Cheryl Snorgrass, wife of J. Anthony Snorgrass, could not have been more proud of her husband, agreeing that he more than adequately captured the emotion and devastation. “I have a coworker who lived in Joplin for twenty-five years. She was here this evening and some of the locations in the pictures she recognized.”

Susan Baldwin, a Kansas City local, became emotional during the viewing of the exhibit. “The first thing I thought

of was a landfill,” said Baldwin, “The photos provide real images. It’s realism.”

Stephanie Tillman and her family were also present at the event, happily wearing their {Hope} Station t-shirts. Tillman’s daughter, Desiree Tillman, said that one of Snorgrass’ photographs reminded her of the scene. “I saw a picture and it had a baby doll in it. It really made me sad for the children and families.”

As guests of the {Hope}’s Stations” exhibit mingled, many signed a framed photograph, leaving sympathetic messages such as “Our thoughts are with you in recovery,” and “Praying for you all.” The piece will be delivered to the Wildwood Baptist Church in Joplin, and will hopefully further give strength to survivors.

Gallery Director, Marci Aylward, had nothing but positive things to say about the

exhibit and its grand opening. “There has been a lot of support from faculty and students. Everyone is so glad this is here.”

Aylward, who helped Snorgrass prepare the gallery room for the debut, believed that the exhibit was important for the community to see. “[Disaster] happened here in Missouri. These are our neighbors. They are still going through this. They *still* need our help.”

The “{Hope}’s Stations” exhibit ran thru September 9 in the Thornhill Gallery. Many students and faculty dropped in and viewed the inspiring works.

More photos of the exhibit and the Opening Reception can be found at http://www.flickr.com/photos/talon_news.

A Cure to Back to School Blues

By Jessica Morrow

Back to school is an exciting time of year. Fresh faces on campus, new class schedules, football games, and great weather. All of these things can make anyone in a great mood; however back to school can be very expensive time of year too. Dorm necessities, groceries, and the most dreaded of all... textbooks!

Avila offers a great education to its' students, but let's face it the tuition is high! After paying thousands just to attend classes we, as students, are required to buy our books as well. Many students choose to use the money left from loans, grants, etc. on books from the Avila bookstore. This is a simple. First, go to the business office, next get a book voucher, and finally head over to the bookstore and buy what you need. As the semester ends, you can take the book back to the bookstore and sell it back to them for about a fourth of what you paid initially. There are times though, that they will not take back the book you bought just 4 months prior. So, there you are, stuck with a Biology book that you paid \$200.00 for. Chances are it will just collect dust and will never be opened again. Students do choose to buy their books this way. When asked why he chose to buy his books on campus at the bookstore instead of the cheaper alternative Senior communications student Brian Garrison replied, "Because I'm lazy."

Lucky for you there are alternatives! Web sites like Amazon offer the same books to be bought for just a fraction of the price. Also, there are sites that offer book rentals. Chegg is a great web site that is

very simple to use. Simply obtain the ISBN number located inside the book (usually inside the front cover), type it into Chegg's homepage, and voila! The same book for about 10-25% of what you would have paid for it at the on campus bookstore. "I buy my books online because it's so much cheaper. I can get coupons online too." Shawna Downing. The only downside is waiting for the book to arrive, but typically if you contact your professor prior to the beginning of the semester they can give you the book information that you need, so that you can order it in time for class.

Buying books online or renting them through a book rental website is the price savvy way to get your class materials at a great price! Now you can get everything you need for school and still have money for other things.



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The Talon Remembers 9-11 and commemorates the continuing pursuit for Peace

Hector Casanova illustration of New York City skyline with missing
twin towers of the World Trade Center "reflected" in the water

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Avila receives major renovations and improvements

By Peter Kondracki

Avila University hasn't experienced a noticeable cosmetic change in quite some time. Whether it's the athletic department or the actual campus itself, Avila has remained fairly stagnant over that past few years. However, a new day has dawned with changes that stretch from a new athletic director to a more aesthetically pleasing cafeteria environment.

The Avila University athletic department has by far received the most benefits from the efforts of the university to change its image. Here's a look into exactly what has changed athletically at Avila.

Facilities:

If you haven't seen the newly renovated Zarda Athletic Complex on campus, then you've been living under a rock. Highly anticipated and long awaited, the new complex boasts a brand new turf playing surface, scoreboard, press box, and the fairly new baseball and softball dugouts that were built last year. Softball and baseball will now share the turf surface instead of being kept separately on opposite sides of the field. Football is obviously ecstatic about the new turf field for a couple reasons. They won't have to play their home games at Rockhurst High School anymore and they won't have to worry much about pot-holes in their practice field. Men's and Women's Soccer also finally will have a home pitch to play on. What will be done with the formerly used practice field behind the Mabee Field House is still being discussed, but rumor has it that it will be used for additional parking after asphalt is laid in the future. While more work is still needed (bleachers?) the improvements of the Zarda Athletic Complex are much appreciated by the student-athletes across campus.

The newly constructed Pavilion is still a work in progress but will feature a new court surface and 8,000 square feet of additional space for the Dance and Cheerleading teams that have been forced to share the court in the Mabee Field House or caged in the claustrophobic dance room. The Pavilion interior is basically finished, as the Cheerleading team has already held a few practices inside. Landscaping and accessibility is still under construction on the exterior.

The basketball court and lighting in the Mabee Field house was also renovated over the summer. These new facilities and renovations will help bring legitimacy to an athletic department that had been lacking in such an area to past and future recruits. These facilities will also help give the athletic youth of Kansas City better facilities to play and practice on and will help Avila University become better in touch with the Kansas City community.

Athletic Teams:

Change has not forgotten about the athletic teams of Avila University either. More coaching changes than I can remember in one year have occurred and its almost tough to keep up with it all. Here are some of the coaching changes throughout the department.

Men's and Women's Golf will sport a new head-woman at the helm of both teams. The locally known Robin Nigro was appointed head coach on July 11th. Robin brings a wealth of knowledge on the sport of golf and also access to her Golf Academy which is located off of 135th and Wornall. Robin announced that "We're looking forward to making Avila's



The new an improved Zarda Athletic Complex during the last week of instalation.

golf program the best it's ever been. There's no facility like ours. Players will have the latest technology to improve their games."

The most successful Avila sports program in recent years has undergone a change that it has not experienced in some time. Former Head Coach Ryan Howard is out after a fairly successful 2011 season and in comes Daryl Cronk a former assistant at Rockhurst University, Pittsburg State University, and the University of Central Missouri. Cronk also played professional in the Independent

Frontier League and served as a scout for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Coach Cronk will look to continue to build on one of Avila's most successful sports programs in 2012.

Avila Changes Continued on page 16

New Spirit, New Places: Avila receives a 'facelift'

By Austin Stockard

Some things get more beautiful with age, Avila was just getting older. The campus needed a face lift and a heart transplant. It got both with all the



new additions that were added over this past summer. Some of the new changes can be seen from the

street. "The school looks great. They have done much work this summer and its paying off. The campus looks beautiful" Says Patrick Haake a family man who owns a house near Avila. The new signs, turf field, and Maybee Pavilion that can be seen from the streets surrounding Avila, is building a lot of buzz around the neighborhood. "I didn't even know Avila had a football team. I can't wait to take my kids to an affordable college football game." says Haake. The thing that Mr. Haake didn't know was that Avila didn't just work on the outside. The school was busy this summer working not only on its exterior but also its inner beauty as well. With the new addition of Subway in Whitfield the students now have an alternative to the Cafeteria.



"It's cool that I have other options besides the Cafeteria. I like changing things up every once and a while." Says Curtis "Bopp" Churchman, a freshmen basketball player at Avila.

Also having a restaurant on campus adds convenience to stranded students who do not own a car.

"Sometimes the cafeteria isn't open when I need to eat before practice, so having Subway on campus makes it easy to eat even though I don't own a car." Says Churchman.

So what about the cafeteria that was under so much scrutiny last year? "I love the new look of the Caf. I actually feel like I am eating in a real college cafeteria. The environment is more hip and fun. The two entrances make it a lot easier to get in fast instead of standing in line." Kristen Riddle a sophomore dancer at Avila.

It is very hard to imagine that all these changes happened over the summer. Who knows what the future holds for Avila. All we really know is that we are headed in the right direction as a school, community and family. Appreciate all that's been

done for the students this year and be excited about the future. Karli Lapointe a junior Cross Country runner loves the direction Avila is going "I think it looks awesome, and will attract a lot more people to our school." With the renovations done to the Whitfield Centre, along with all the other additions to the school Avila has enhanced the students' college life. We no longer have to drive to home games for soccer and football. We no longer have to leave campus to go eat. We are brought closer together. Hopefully these changes are a small taste of what is to come. Students have complained that Avila doesn't have a college feel to it. Hopefully every one is feeling it and feeling a sense of pride to be an Avila Eagle.



Avila Changes

continued from pg 13

The team under the most change this year is undoubtedly the Football program. After a tumultuous spring that saw the resign and departure of former Head Coach Kevin Porter in the middle of spring practice, newly appointed Head Coach Justin Berna takes the reigns. Berna, who will be the youngest Head Coach in the country at age 26, will have the daunting task of trying to make the Avila Eagles relevant in the Heart of America Conference.

"Avila has never had a big tradition. It's been a place to go to win a few games to move on, so it'll be interesting. But I want to be here long term. I want to stick here. We can get things turned around here," said Berna at the HAAC media day last month. Almost the entire coaching staff has also been replaced with its most notable hire coming in the form of Marcus Yokeley, who brings his coaching talents from the University of Missouri.

Volleyball and Cross-country have undergone changes as well either a promotion into a new Head Coaching position or a totally new program altogether.

The Avila athletic department will now have a new face at helm in new Athletic Director Gary Gallop. With a resume including 34 years of intercollegiate athletic experience and stops around the country at Nicholls State University, University of New Orleans, University of Texas-Pan American, Lamar University, Southern Utah State College, and most recently Kentucky Wesleyan University, Gallop will bring a wealth of knowledge to the Avila Eagles athletic program. "I met some great people during my on-campus interview, and I am excited about the opportunity to lead Avila athletics and recreation at a time when the University is making a commitment to strengthen support for its athletic and recreation programs. "I look forward to working with students, coaches, faculty and other staff to improve the experience of students and the profile of Avila athletics in the community," said Gallop after being hired in May.

Spotlight: New faces at Avila University

By Javier Kelty

With Avila's population increasing every year, the Talon staff felt it was only appropriate to introduce some of the new faces on campus...

Dallavis (the Communication department) has added a new faculty member to its ever so welcoming family. Meet Don Simon, adjunct professor for Issues in Media Law.

A Joplin native, Don practiced law for fresh-out-of college "entertainment nobodies"—as he affectionately refers to them—for several years.

"I'd been practicing law, entertainment and intellectual property law, for many years, and really enjoyed it but there was something about teaching that really captured me" explains Simon.

Teaching was something that he happened to come across while looking for clients via online networking. He started teaching a Broadcast Law class at Columbia College in Chicago when an actress viewed his online profile, noticed his qualifications and asked him to come teach. From that moment he knew teaching was what he really wanted to do.



"It's great seeing creative students get a good foundation, not only in the development of their artistic craft but also have a little business and legal sense on the way."

After teaching at a few different schools in the KC area, Simon finally found his way to Avila.

"I was just sort of out there looking for campuses that had great Communication departments and I approached Dotty (Hamilton) about teaching a course," says Simon.

He teaches at a couple other schools, while continuing to practice law and go to school, but would like to have one school to call home. In the next five years Don Simon plans to finish up his Masters in Communication and possibly start working on his Doctorate. His ideal job would be to work as a full time professor teaching law.

So if you happen to see Prof. Simon on campus, don't hesitate to say hi. After all he's probably "the nicest lawyer you'll ever meet."

Apart from Avila's prestigious nursing and radiology programs, athletics always attract a plethora of talented students. Placing fourth in hip hop and jazz at the 2011 Universal Dance and Cheer Association Collegiate National Championships, the Avila dance team naturally catches the attention of new talent every year. This year, Brittany Watson is one of the few to make the team.

"I've been going to the Kansas Spectacular Competition in Olathe and every year I see Avila dance so I tried out and made the team" explains Brittany.

A transfer from JCCC, Brittany is a



Communication major with an emphasis in Advertising/Public Relations. Originally from Tonganoxie, KS, she makes the forty-five minute commute to campus every day.

She has been dancing since she was three years old and is very passionate about every aspect of dancing. She feels that pom is her forte but her favorite type of dance is jazz. When asked about her inspiration, the season seven winner of *So You Think You Can Dance*, Lauren Froderman comes to Brittany's mind.

"She inspires me to push myself and try new things I haven't done before," Brittany says as she thinks about her role model.

Extremely enthusiastic about spending her fourth year dancing—in a collegiate environment—at Avila, the dance team is her favorite part of going to school here.

"They're really supportive and a blast to be around. They make me look at things with a different perspective and with an open mind. They are really encouraging."

Avila can't wait to see what Brittany Watson and the rest of the dance team have in store for this upcoming semester.



Honoring the past with a new memorial

By Felicia DePriest

September 11, 2001, more commonly referred to as 9/11, was the deadliest foreign attack on American soil in the nation's history. Over 3,000 people were killed by the al-Qaida hijackers.

Although the terrorist attacks were 10 years ago, 9/11 remains fresh in the minds of the American people. Despite the passing of a decade, the world community and Avila community distinctly remember their initial reaction to the attacks.

Fred Fu is a graduate student studying International Business at Avila. Fu was at home in China at the time of the attacks and remembers seeing the footage on the news.

"I [thought] this was [a] very terrible thing. It was horrible. I couldn't believe it."

Jennifer Loumiet was at her High School when she heard about the attacks. "It was announced over the loud speaker that planes had hit the World Trade Center," said the Theater and English major. "My first thought was that there was an accident...that something had just gone wrong."

"I think I was in my third grade class... We were doing an assignment. Then the teacher dropped everything and she turned on the news and we just started watching airplanes crash into the building. That's what I remember seeing all day that day," said Alberto Gonzalez, a first-year student at Avila.

Those vivid memories come from the series of events that occurred on that Tuesday morning in September...

American Airlines Flight 11 left Boston at 7:59. The plane, bound for Los Angeles, had 92 people aboard. At 8:45, the plane was crashed into the North World Trade Center Tower.

News crews rushed to cover the tragic accident, unaware that the crash had been one of four planned disasters. With news cameras rolling, and anchors unaware of the background scene, the

entire country witnessed the second crash.

The United Airlines Flight 175, also leaving from Boston's Logan International Airport, collided with the South World Trade Center Tower nearly 15 minutes after Flight 11.

A third plane, Flight 77, crashed into the Pentagon at 9:37. According to the New York Times, 125 military and civilian personnel inside the Pentagon were killed.

The fourth plane, whose destination was never confirmed, crashed into an empty field in Pennsylvania. Passengers of United Airlines Flight 93 are believed to have fought with the hijackers before the plane went down.

Although families with lost loved-ones

felt the pain and sorrow from the injustice, they were not the only ones whose lives were turned upside down.

Fatma Altimimi, an international student at Avila, is from Saudi Arabia. Being from the Middle East, Altimimi says people judged her after 9/11, changing her life forever. "It made it difficult for me. They said that Muslims did it, or Arabian people did it. So it affected me," said Altimimi. Altimimi also shared that when many people would see her wearing her scarf, that they would act afraid and assume she was a terrorist.

Like Altimimi, many Middle Eastern people were subject for cruel and unjust stereotyping as fear, combined with lack of understanding, created generalizations for the entire Middle Eastern community.

With the 10th anniversary of 9/11, it is important that everyone take time to remember not only those who lost their lives, but those whose lives were impacted by 9/11.

"I think it's important that we remember 9/11 because...a lot of people lost family members that day," said Gonzalez.

Many people either lost a loved-one or are connected to someone who did. "I went to High School with a girl and her auntie was actually, I think, a police officer in New York. And she happened to be in the building when it went down," shared Adrian Foster, class of 2013.

No matter the time that passes, 9/11 will remain a memory that constantly reminds everyone of the dangers of hatred and the importance of cooperation. As first-year student, Theresa Hancock said, "It will always be there in the back of people's minds because of the large impact it made."

Shining Starr

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

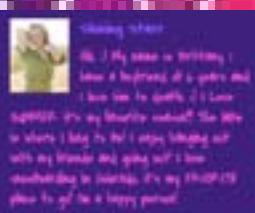
"The Children of 9-11"

While shopping at Wal-Mart the other week I came across People Magazine that featured a special article on 9-11 titled, "The Children of 9-11". Within this article it discussed a group of mothers and children who had lost their husbands/fathers on that tragic day. Now ten years later, this article talks about what it has been like for them and the struggles they've had to overcome through that process. Each page of this article displayed a different family and gives the readers a short bio of that loved one they lost. It also includes their thoughts on the event now and their feelings of the heartbreaking events anniversary. On the last page it showed the mothers and their children all photographed together, along with quotes of how they wished to remember what they lost.



I personally enjoyed reading through this article. It gave me a bigger perspective on 9-11. It amazes me that after all these years these mothers have stood strong for their children as they've had to watch them grow up without their fathers. Knowing and seeing what this unforgettable day did to all of America, I think that these mothers have to be one of the strongest groups of people. I couldn't imagine being pregnant and having my husband killed. So many things left unsaid, so many more memories to make, the birth, graduation, and marriage of the unborn child missed, and the ultimate thought of, how will I do this? Although I am not a mother, or a person that lost someone in 9-11, I fell very deeply for those mothers and their children along with all the families who have lost their loved ones. Waking up one day going about my business like normal and then in an instant my world crumbling to the ground, seems too unreal. I don't know what it is like to lose a father/mother, brother/sister, son/daughter, uncle/aunt, and I couldn't ever begin to speak for those who indeed did lose someone important to them. I don't even know how I would react, what I would say, how I would think, which is what makes these families so unique and amazing. Although they didn't have the answer either, they managed to stick together and make it through. If the families and the victims of 9-11 aren't an inspiration to all of America, than I don't know what is.

We will never forget 9-11. God Bless.



Presumptuous W



Martin Luther King Jr. Monument Quote Criticized



The newly constructed Martin Luther King Jr. memorial in Washington D.C., meant to commemorate the civil rights leader, is receiving some flak for a misleading quote inscribed on the statue.

The quote, paraphrased from a comment King said in 1968 at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta states, "I was a drum major for justice, peace and righteousness." His original words were, "If you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice, say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter."

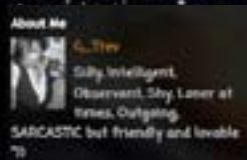
Renowned author, poet, and civil rights activist Maya Angelou criticized the

inscription. She said that it was the omission of the word "if" that changed its meaning completely. "The quote makes Dr. Martin Luther King look like an arrogant twit. He was anything but that. He was far too profound a man for that four-letter word to apply."

I don't know about you, but I am agreeing with Angelou on this one. The word "if" changes everything! For example, "If you want to say I'm beautiful, say that I have gorgeous hair, say that I have spectacular eyes." Now imagine someone manipulating my words to say, "I'm beautiful, I have gorgeous hair and spectacular eyes." Sounds a little vain doesn't it?

Another author, Kirk Savage, (Monument Wars: Washington, D.C., the National Mall, and the Transformation of the Memorial Landscape) stated that he too, was jarred by the quote. "I did see that inscription, and I did scratch my head a little bit because something sounded wrong about it, it didn't sound like something he said." To read the rest of the blog go to Talonnews360.net

Georgia's Galaxy



Changes Don't Happen Overnight

If the world evolves constantly, why do only certain things change? If the world is changing, it should change as a whole. So why do some things never change? Change is for the better and America as a whole is supposed to change as one. Why does America look the other way on those less fortunate who want to evolve with the rest of us but can't due to circumstances? Change is coming possibly; I just don't believe it truly has arrived.

Sure you could debate with me about it but once I'm set on something, it's tough to change my mind set. Tying this in with the real matter has to do with late rapper/actor, Tupac Shakur. A few simple verses heard from the rapper are deep enough to make anyone wonder and question things he sees that we never truly sit and think about. He had a view on everything, he made it so we could relate even if we weren't in the circumstance; we understood and his mind was on a bigger picture. He saw what we either didn't want to see or what we refused to look at.

"I got love for my brother, but we can never go nowhere unless we share with each other. We gotta start makin changes; learn to see me as a brother instead of two distant strangers... I see no changes all I see is racist faces. Misplaced hate makes disgrace to races. We under, I wonder what it takes to make this one better place, let's replace the wasted."

Read the Rest of the blog at Talonnews360.net

Illness of My Mind



Kelby Phelps

22 year old student athlete. I live life to the fullest. My life is like a movie.

[View my complete profile](#)

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Lockdown

Everyone was hoping for an NFL season this year, and we have it, but what would've been the effects if there was a lockout? Beyond the loaded team owners and well-off players, (which seemed to be the only topic in the news), the ones that would take the biggest hit from this lockout would've been the thousands who make a living off of merchandise sales, the office workers for their respective teams, or even those local organizations, including some here at Avila, that use these sporting events for fundraisers.

Founder and Head Coach of the Avila dance team; Cindy Freeman uses the Chiefs games as the main fundraiser for her team. If the season would have been cancelled this year, the budget for her program would have taken a dramatic hit. Last year the team worked 5 games making around \$750.00 per game, which is a great deal of money to lose for anyone, let alone at a school that has already made budget cuts due to the economy. "Almost all of my contacts were let go," Freeman explains about the troubles of trying to get in touch with someone to schedule games to work this year. Two weeks ago she finally was able to get in touch with someone to schedule 4 games, and possibly more for this season. Although the Avila dance team was able to make it through another season with their highest paying fundraiser, it was a narrow escape.

These lockouts obviously create a ripple effect across the nation in places people wouldn't even think of. Although the NFL came to an agreement in time for the season, can we expect the NBA to do the same, or will we have to experience some of these economic problems for real instead of just talking about them? We can only wait and see for now, but I know the fans are cheering for a quick resolution, along with those whose jobs are in the control of the million dollar discussions happening between David Stern (Commissioner of the NBA) and the NBA Players Association.

More Talon found at www.talonnews360.net

